



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
<http://dnr.state.il.us>

Pat Quinn, Governor
Marc Miller, Director

December 3, 2013

Adam Pallai
Martin Engineering Company
3223 South Meadowbrook
Springfield, IL 62711

RE: Springfield Technology Park
Project Number: 1313844
County: Sangamon

Dear Mr. Pallai:

This letter concerns the Endangered Species Consultation for the Springfield Technology Park in Springfield, Sangamon County in Township 15N, Range 6W, sections 14 and 15. This project was submitted for consultation in accordance with the *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act* [520 ILCS 10/11], and the *Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act* [525 ILCS 30/17].

The project will consist of a technology park subdivision with sewer and water utilities as well as roadway and sidewalk. The Department has reviewed the project and determined that the action is likely to have an adverse impact on the State-threatened Franklin's Ground Squirrel [*Spermophilus franklinii*], which likely uses the Norfolk and Western Railway right-of-way that borders the south side of the project site. To avoid these impacts, the Department recommends, and the developer has agreed to, the following measures for Parcels 1 and 2, which are located in the northern portion of the subdivision, and for any work on the northern portion of the existing stormwater detention basin.

- Keep the area south of the construction site (approximately 500 feet between the railroad ROW and the currently proposed construction site) mowed if it does not continue to be cropped. The Franklin's Ground Squirrel (FGS) is 8-12 inches long and prefers grass short enough to allow it to stand on its hind legs and see over the vegetation—about 6-10-inch tall herbaceous vegetation. Keep the vegetation no taller than five inches to deter FGS from using the site.
- Dig-in a silt fence around the construction site to discourage Franklin's Ground Squirrels from moving into the area; do not allow any staging outside of the silt fence. Check the fence weekly to make sure it is functioning properly.
- Store top soil on the north side of the construction site, and avoid stockpiling soil for extended periods. Franklin's Ground Squirrels are known to colonize dirt piles.

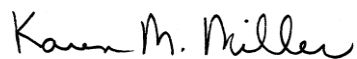
Parcels 3 to 6 will be built adjacent to habitat for the FGS and work on these phases, as well as any work on the southern portion of the existing stormwater detention basin, could result in a violation of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act if a prohibited take occurs. The Department recommends you conduct a biological survey for Franklin's Ground Squirrel this spring and, if squirrels are present, seek Incidental Take Authorization before any work commences. You can also presume the squirrels are present and apply for Incidental Take Authorization without conducting the survey. Communication concerning the ITA application should be directed to Joe Kath, Office of Resource Conservation, 217-785-8764 or Joe.Kath@illinois.gov.

Consultation under 17 Ill. Adm. Code Part 1075 is terminated. This consultation is valid for two years unless new information becomes available that was not previously considered; the proposed action is modified; or additional species, essential habitat, or Natural Areas are identified in the vicinity. If the project has not been implemented within two years of the date of this letter, or any of the above listed conditions develop, a new consultation is necessary.

The natural resource review reflects the information existing in the Illinois Natural Heritage Database at the time of the project submittal, and should not be regarded as a final statement on the site being considered, nor should it be a substitute for detailed site surveys or field surveys required for environmental assessments. If additional protected resources are encountered during the project's implementation, you must comply with the applicable statutes and regulations. Also, note that termination does not imply IDNR's authorization or endorsement of the proposed action.

Please contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen M. Miller".

Karen M. Miller
Division of Ecosystems and Environment
Phone (217) 785-5500
karen.m.miller@illinois.gov